



State of Tennessee
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CHAMPION, S. A.
(1844-1906)
COLLECTION
1876-1885

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INTRODUCTION

Samuel A. Champion was a lawyer in Paris, Tenn. and a Tennessee State Senator, 1883-1884. This collection includes business letters and postcards. Correspondents include W.H. Cherry, Charles M. Ewing, W.B. Grizzard, James M. Head, W.E. Reigh, A. Rosecrans, F.M. Thompson, A.G. Travistree, John M. Taylor, John R. Thomason, W.L. Utley, John J. Vertrees, R.A. Wade, William H. Washington, and L.R. Willis.

The materials in this collection measures .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single copies of unpublished writings in the S.A. Champion papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Champion papers pertain to Samuel A. Champion, a prominent Paris, Tennessee lawyer and member of the State Legislature from 1883 to 1885. This collection throws an interesting light on the details of local and state politics in the 1880's. It also provides glimpses of the life and affairs of the legal profession in a small town.

A majority of the letters deal with civil suits, the collection of fees and other financial matters. As a lawyer, Mr. Champion specialized in taxes, the collection of debts and the settlement of claims. There are a few letters concerning Champion's interest in the financial affairs of the struggling "Morning World" newspaper. There are several letters dealing with the fortunes of the Democratic party, which was at this time attempting to unify its ranks and secure control over the state political machinery. There are also a number of letters concerning Champion's services as a state senator, including letters seeking appointments and political favors and petitions in favor of certain laws, et cetera. Finally there are a few letters from R.A. Wade who managed Champion's Cattle farm near Paris.

Among those who corresponded with Mr. Champion were William H. Cherry of the Tennessee Agricultural Works, William W. Washington, Attorney General for the Nashville District, John M. Taylor, Attorney from Lexington, Tennessee, F.M. Thompson, his assistant in Paris, Tennessee and Leon Tronsdale, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Alphonso Champion

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|---------|--|
| 1844 | October 12, born at Fulton, Fulton County, Kentucky to James Henry and Elvira Angeline Phipps Champion |
| 188? | Began practice of law at Paris, Tennessee; President of Bank of Henry County |
| 1883-85 | Elected to the Senate representing Henry and Weakley counties, Tennessee |
| 1884 | Removed to Nashville, Tennessee where he practiced law for sixteen years |
| 1886 | Married May Harding of Mississippi |
| 1906 | April 25, died, Nashville; buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery |

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Business Letters -- 1876-1880
2. Business Letters -- January -- August 1881
3. Business Letters -- September -- December 1881
4. Business Letters -- January -- April 1882
5. Business Letters -- May -- August 1882
6. Business Letters -- September -- December 1882
7. Business Letters -- January 1883
8. Business Letters -- February -- March 1883
9. Business Letters -- April -- July 1883
10. Business Letters -- August -- September 1883
11. Business Letters -- October -- December 1885
12. Post Cards -- 1880-1883

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence only in the Samuel A. Champion Papers.

Folder 1

Aldrich & Company, 1889
Baxter, J.G., 1876
Barney, Emma, 1885
Barr, H.H., 1876
Barrow, E., 1882
Breckinridge, Robert J., 1882
Bryan, A.R., 1882
Cagle, J.H., 1883
Caldwell, A.J.,
Caldwell, S.H., 1883
Cannon, John T., 1883
Cannon & Byers, 1883
Carter Brothers & Company (2), 1882
Cavitt, N.Y., 1882
Champion, Dora, n.d.
Champion, Jennie B. (2), 1883-85
Champion, S.A. (3), 1880-83
Champion, W.C., 1882
Cheatham, E.F., 1882

Folder 2

Cherry, W.H. (9), 1882-83

Folder 3

Childress, John W., 1882
Covitt, Bruce, 1883
Cowardin, H.G., 1882
Crutchfield, J.W., 1882
Daniel, J.L., 1883
Daniel, William M., 1882
Dawson, J.S., 1882
Dickinson, M.W., 1883
Dinwiddie, Thomas H., 1883
Eason, W.H., 1883
Ewing, Charles M. (2), 1883
Falkner, E. (2), 1883
Fryer, T.C., 1883

Folder 4

Gardner, John A., 1878
Grizzard, W.B. (2), 1878, 1880
Harris, G.W., 1880
Harris, V.R., 1881
Hawkins, A.G., 1882
Hayes, Charles M., 1883
Hays, Stokeley D. 1882
Head, James M. (2), 1883
Irion, John T., 1885
James, W.M., 1885
Jonnie, 1885
J.T. Coulter & Company, 1883
Kinney, McLaughlin & Company, 1885
L.L., n.d.
Maggie, 1885
Palmer, Florence, 1883
Payne, Viley & Company, 1881
Porter, E.L., 1881
Preston Brothers, 1876
Purviance, J.W., 1882
Rains, D.H., 1882
Randle, E.H., 1881
Ratterree, A., 1881
Robins, A., 1883
Rosecrans, A. (3), 1876-83

Folder 6

Sanford, E.J., 1883
Sherwood, H.M., 1883
Sneed, R.A., 1881
Snodgrass, D.L., 1883
Sroat, G.W., 1881
Sutcliff & Owen, 1883
Sweeney, C., 1883
Sweeney, John C., 1883

Folder 7

Thompson, F.M. (9), 1883

Folder 8

Travistree, (?), A.G., (8) 1881-3

Folder 9

Taylor, John M. (3), 1882- 83
Taylor & Williams, 1883
Terry, J.C., 18821
Thomason, John R., (2)
Trousdale, Leon, 1883
Turner, G.P.M., 1882
Utley, W.L. (2), 1883
Vertrees, John J. (3) 1881
Wade. R.A. (2), 1883
Warterfield, A.G., 1885
Washington, William H. (2), 1880, 1881
Wasson, B.W., 1881
Weldon, A.J., 1883

Folder 10

Willis, L.R. (5), 1883
Wilson, James P., 1883
Winsett, D.M., 1883
Zeverly, Bartram, 1881 (for Nathaniel West)